

Reading for Meaning

**Welcome to the Reading for
Meaning programme.**

**We hope that you will have fun
reading stories and doing activities
with learners.**

**Remember, nurturing and
supporting a child is important
for their physical, emotional and
academic development.**



**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

Reading
for Meaning

I don't like cricket - I love it!

STORY GUIDE

STORY
5

EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Pens or pencils

Paper

The Story



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Most people believe that girls cannot play cricket, a young girl is determined to prove them wrong. She works hard every day to become better at playing cricket but some people think that she is just wasting her time. Can she prove them wrong?



READ THE STORY...

Read the story aloud, with expression. Change your voice when different characters speak.

Pause briefly for commas, full stops etc. and between paragraphs.

THEN SUDDENLY...

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BAM!

I don't like
cricket -
I love it!

Some people will tell you that girls can't play cricket. But they don't know about a girl like me!

The first time I picked up my brother's cricket bat and hit the ball, something clicked inside. I just knew this was the game for me.

From that day on, I played with my brother and his friends almost every day. I would go out onto the field near our house and join in the game. I worked on my cricket skills. Some of the boys liked bowling. But I especially liked batting.

When it was my turn to bat, I learned how to hit so that I could score runs. I would watch carefully as the bowler bowled the ball. Then I would swing the bat and hit that ball as hard as I could. But I didn't just hit it. I aimed it carefully so that it flew right between the fielders of the other team. So no-one would be able to catch it. Then I would run as fast as the

wind towards the other wicket. That was how I scored runs.

Soon I was scoring more runs than most of the boys. They actually started to admire my skill. I just loved playing cricket!

But I was still only playing with my brother's friends, after school. I knew there was a cricket team at school and I really wanted to play with that team. I was desperate and willing to give up anything to get onto the team. But the school team did not make me feel welcome.

Some people had an opinion that girls should not play cricket in the team. I was not going to be discouraged, so I kept pestering the coaches to include me.

One day they put my name on the list! I was proud and over the moon to be the "first female cricketer" at my school.

I wanted to prove that girls can do anything

they want to do. Also, that it is possible for girls to play cricket.

The day arrived when I had to train. I woke up at six o' clock and had to do this every day, including Saturdays! It was tough to sacrifice my sleep.

The training sessions were two hours of training and thirty minutes of jogging. I had to be careful what I ate: only meat, eggs, fruit and boiled vegetables. It was terrible because I missed out on all the yummy food like cakes and sweets.

Meanwhile the coach and the boys tried to prove that girls could not play cricket. For that reason they made me do twenty push-ups and ten press-ups every PE period.

But I was proving to them that we girls can! I worked hard at my exercises and got stronger and fitter.

At last the day came when we were playing against another team. My friends stayed to watch the match. They stayed to encourage me and remind me of my mission to be part of the team.

I knew I was the last batter, but I didn't care, as long as I got my innings.

By the time it was my turn, our team was losing. We had 74 runs and the other team had 102 runs in their 50 overs. We were 8 wickets down and the coach had to put me in as I was the only one left. It was the 47 over and I had to do my best.

Guess what happened? I hit two sixes, three fours and ran another five runs.

When the score was 99 runs I hit the ball high up into the air, hoping for a six. Unfortunately it didn't go far enough, and there was a fielder waiting to catch the ball. Luckily for me, he dropped it!

The look on the coach's face when I hit that winning run was one of joy.

I was so happy! I fell into the arms of my friends. My mission was accomplished. I proved to everyone that girls can play cricket.

The next day, my picture was in the local newspaper on the front page. The best part of the article was the headline: "Flamingo's first female cricketer hits winning score."



WORD FOCUS

Ask the Readers to choose words that they find difficult and write them on a sheet of paper.

Ask them to use a dictionary or ask someone else at home what those words mean in their home language. Help them out if necessary.



SECOND READING...

Once you've worked out the meaning of the words, read the story again out loud.

Activities

MATCH THE COLUMNS

- 1** Below are two columns with characters from the story and different statements (things that they said or thought in the story).
- 2** The Readers must try and match each character to the correct statement.
- 3** Ask them to draw two columns and write down the characters in the column on the left.
- 4** Then give them each statement and ask them to write it in the right hand column next to the character that thought or said it in the story.

Can girls play cricket?

Match each character with their statement.

Writer (the girl)

Brother and his
friends

School coach

School team

Her friends

They encouraged the
girl in the match

Did not want to
include her

Wanted to prove
girls can play cricket

Was slow to give her
a chance

They thought she
played well

Ending

Praise the Readers for their participation.

Ask if they enjoyed the story, and what they liked best. Tell them you enjoyed it too.

Say goodbye, and say how much you look forward to seeing them next time.

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

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